

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ROME 07761 271742Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 MCT-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-11 ACDA-12 TRSE-00 /079 W
-----072953 280657Z /21

R 271711Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2380

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 7761

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, IT
SUBJ: MEETING WITH UGO LA MALFA, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLICAN PARTY

1. SUMMARY: IN WIDE-RANGING REVIEW OF PRESENT ITALIAN SCENE UGO LA MALFA, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLICAN PARTY OF ITALY, TOLD ME HE IS CONVINCED THAT RED BRIGADES ARE SUPPORTED BY USSR AND CZECHOSLOVAKIA WITH THE GOAL OF DESTROYING DC/PCI COOPERATION IN PARLIAMENTARY MAJORITY AND PUSHING ITALY TOWARD CIVIL WAR. IN HIS VIEW, THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT FORMULA CAN AND MUST BE MADE TO ENDURE FOR TWO TO THREE YEARS TO ENABLE THE COUNTRY TO EMERGE FROM CRISIS, AFTER WHICH THE "DEMOCRATIC DIALECTIC CAN BE RENEWED:.. END SUMMARY.

2. I MET WITH UGO LA MALFA, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLICAN PARTY, AT HIS REQUEST ON APRIL 25. FOLLOWING ARE MAIN POINTS MADE BY LA MALFA IN WIDE-RANGING REVIEW OF ITALIAN SCENE:

A. IN LA MALFA'S VIEW, THE PURPOSE OF THE RED BRIGADES (BR) IS TO DRIVE THE PCI INTO OPPOSITION AND PUSH ITALY TOWARD CIVIL WAR. IT IS NO ACCIDENT, HE EMPHASIZED, THAT THE BR KIDNAPPED MORO, THE PRINCIPAL ARCHITECT OF THE PARLIAMENTARY ACCORD, OR THAT THEY ATTACKED
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 ROME 07761 271742Z

BERLINGUER AND HIS GROUP IN THEIR COMMUNIQUE.

B. LA MALFA IS CONVINCED THAT THE USSR AND CZECHOSLOVAKIA ARE BEHIND THE BR. THE USSR WANTS TO DESTROY BERLINGUER BECAUSE IT CAN'T CONTROL HIM -- THEY SEE A MENACE TO THEIR WHOLE SYSTEM IF THE PCI IS INSERTED INTO A DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT. HE HAS HEARD

REPORTS THAT 300 OF THE BR WERE TRAINED YEARS AGO IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA. ADMITTEDLY HE HAS SEEN NO PROOF OF THIS, BUT "IT'S POSSIBLE THAT AN INTERNAL ITALIAN MOVEMENT COULD BE SO ORGANIZED".

C. HE DOUBTS THE BR WILL KILL MORO -- THEY WILL KEEP HIM AS LONG AS POSSIBLE AND "SQUEEZE HIM" UNTIL HE SERVES NO FURTHER PURPOSE. AFTER RELEASING MORO, LA MALFA IS CONVINCED, THEY WILL THEN TRY TO KILL ANOTHER MAJOR POLITICAL FIGURE. THIS WILL PUSH THE COUNTRY INTO A "STATE OF SIEGE". THE BR THINK THIS WILL FORCE THE GOVERNMENT TO REPRESSIVE MEASURES WHICH THE PCI WILL BE UNABLE TO ACCEPT, WITH THE RESULT THAT THE PCI WILL GO INTO OPPOSITION. THIS PLAN WILL FAIL, HE BELIEVES, BECAUSE THE PCI AND DC WILL UNITE IN PROPOSING NEW LAWS TO DEAL WITH THE EMERGENCY, VERY PROBABLY INCLUDING THE REINTRODUCTION OF THE DEATH PENALTY AND MUCH MORE POWER TO THE POLICE. "THE COMMUNISTS ARE BEGINNING TO SPEAK MY LANGUAGE ON PUBLIC ORDER."

D. THE PCI, LA MALFA SAYS, CALLS HIM REGULARLY TO ASK THAT THE OTHER PARTIES STAND FIRM IN RESISTING NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE BR. HE IS CONVINCED THAT THE PCI WANTS A STRONG DC TO WORK WITH IN ORDER NOT TO BE PULLED TOWARD THE SOVIET UNION. HE IS CONVINCED THE PCI IS ACTING IN GOOD FAITH: "UP UNTIL NOW I
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 ROME 07761 271742Z

HAVEN'T SEEN ANY SIGN OF A NEED TO FEAR THE PCI."

E. IF MORO EMERGES ALIVE, LA MALFA IS CONVINCED HE IS FINISHED POLITICALLY. IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT THE DC HAVE A STRONG LEADER AND THE MAN BEST SUITED TO THIS TASK IS PROBABLY FANFANI, PROVIDED THAT HE WILL NOT BE TOO "ANTI-COMMUNIST" AND WILL BE WILLING TO WORK WITH THE PCI. A SECOND POSSIBILITY FOR THE LEADERSHIP ROLE WOULD BE FORLANI.

F. THE PRESENT GOVERNING FORMULA MUST BE MADE TO LAST FOR AT LEAST TWO TO THREE YEARS, BECAUSE THE COUNTRY CAN'T STAND ELECTIONS IN ITS PRESENT CRISIS. HE IS CONVINCED THE PCI WILL GO ALONG WITH THIS AND NOT PRESS FOR AN EMERGENCY GOVERNMENT WITH PCI MINISTERS. AFTER THE TWO-TO-THREE-YEAR PERIOD, THE "DEMOCRATIC DIALECTIC CAN BE RENEWED". "IF WE BREAK THE PRESENT FORMULA, WE WILL HAVE CIVIL WAR."

3. COMMENT: MY INTERVIEW WITH LA MALFA RECONFIRMED MY IMPRESSION THAT HE IS OVERLY TRUSTING OF PCI AND DETERMINED TO CONTINUE HIS EFFORTS TO INVOLVE THEM

EVEN MORE CLOSELY IN ITALIAN GOVERNMENT.GARDNER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PERSONAL OPINION, MEETINGS, PRESS CONFERENCES, POLITICAL PARTIES, POLITICAL LEADERS, CIVIL DISORDERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978ROME07761
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780181-0965
Format: TEL
From: ROME
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t1978049/aaaaahil.tel
Line Count: 117
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 2d05eeb5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3067114
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MEETING WITH UGO LA MALFA, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLICAN PARTY
TAGS: PINT, IT, (LA MALFA, UGO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/2d05eeb5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014